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Executive Director, West County Toxics Coalition
Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Subcommittee,
Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee

Testimony to the Little Hoover Commission
Hearing on CALFED Bay-Delta Authority Governance
September 22, 2005

Greetings,

My name is Dr. Henry Clark. I am the Executive Director of the West County Toxics Coalition based in Richmond, CA. I am also Co-Chair of the CALFED Environmental Justice Subcommittee.

I will start with the CALFED governance issue. There has been a serious disregard and lack of Commitment to implementing Environmental Justice according to the Record of Decision that states "This workplan should at a minimum, include commitments such as the development of environmental justice goals and objectives for each program area, investments in staff and resources across program areas and agencies, development and implementation of an environmental justice education program for agency and program staff, collection and analysis of additional demographic information to assist in the identification of impacts, and actions to ensure effective participation on technical and advisory workgroups by those populations adversely impacted."

The Environmental Justice Coordinator needs resources and more staff. The Authority and the BDPAC need to get an Environmental Justice status report at each meeting.

There also needs to be better diversity within CALFED. There are no African-Americans on the Authority nor BDPAC.

The California Bay-Delta Authority should have more legal authority over implementing agencies. That legal authority should come from legislation.

The Federal agencies should recognize that respectful cooperation and mutual agreement on goals and objectives is the way to go.

There should be a commitment to have all CALFED meetings rotate throughout the state, to make them more accessible.

The Environmental Justice Program should be reassessed in terms of the need for reorganization. A person on each CALFED committee should be identified to be an Environmental Justice contact person that works with the Environmental Justice Coordinator.

These are some ideas that may help you in this reorganization effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Henry Clark